



Managing Solid Waste Encountered During Excavation Activities

Solid Waste Management Program fact sheet

9/2006

This fact sheet provides information and guidance regarding the proper handling and disposal of solid waste uncovered during excavation activities. This fact sheet is primarily for construction contractors involved with excavating footings, basements, utility trenches and other types of excavation. When excavating, solid waste may be encountered due to the presence of pre-law landfills or unknown illegal dumps.

Note: this guidance does not apply to solid wastes legally disposed of by an individual resulting from his or her own residential activities on property owned or lawfully occupied by him or her when such wastes do not thereby create a public nuisance or adversely affect the public health as stated in Missouri Revised Statutes 260.210.1. (1), RSMo.

Waste types

During excavation activities, you may uncover the following residual types:

- 1 Clean fill
- 2 Recyclable materials
- 3 General solid waste

Management requirements differ for each of these waste types. If prior knowledge exists of a pre-law landfill or illegal dump that is planned for excavation, the department's Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) must be contacted prior to the excavation for determination of proper handling and disposal of uncovered wastes. Contact the Solid Waste Management Program at (573) 751-5401.

1. Clean fill is "uncontaminated soil, rock, sand, gravel, concrete, asphaltic concrete, cinder blocks, brick, minimal amounts of wood and metal and inert solids...for fill, reclamation or other beneficial use" [§260.200(4), RSMo].

The following guidance is given concerning "minimal amounts of wood and metal and inert solids." The department's working definition for "minimal amounts" is amounts of less than 10 percent based on the total volume of excavated material. Excavated material containing a total volume of less than 10 percent solid waste may be reburied in the same location from where it was excavated.

Concrete containing wire mesh or rebar may be considered as clean fill. However, exposed rebar should be removed to the maximum extent possible before use in order to prevent a public nuisance or health and safety hazard.



Roofing shingles, sheet rock, lumber or other construction and demolition wastes are not defined as clean fill. When these materials are excavated and comprise 10 percent or greater of the total volume of excavated material they must be properly disposed of using the following guidance in section 2, Recyclable materials and section 3, General solid waste.

2. Recyclable materials are materials that can be recycled into new products (i.e. steel and aluminum). Steel and other metals should be recycled when possible. If recycling is not an option then the materials must be properly disposed of at a permitted landfill or taken to a transfer station.

If you need assistance with locating a recycling facility, contact the Planning Unit of the department's Solid Waste Management Program at (573) 751-5401.

3. General solid waste is solid waste not intended to be recycled. These wastes include non-hazardous construction and demolition waste as well as garbage and refuse. General solid waste must be disposed of at a permitted landfill or taken to a transfer station. They must not be dumped, burned or reburied (except at a permitted landfill) to avoid violating air and solid waste laws and regulations.

Note: When construction/demolition debris is discovered by excavation, workers need to be aware of the potential presence of asbestos containing materials and other types of hazardous waste. Previously demolished buildings may have asbestos containing materials (ACM) such as ceiling or floor tile, as insulation or soundproofing on ceilings, pipes, ductwork or boilers, or on the outside as transite siding or in shingles. These materials must be handled properly to avoid harm to construction employees and landfill operators. For information on handling and proper disposal of asbestos containing materials, contact the department's Air Pollution Control Program at (573) 751-4817.

Additional information on asbestos requirements is available on the Web at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp/Asbestos.htm. If the ACM is to go to a landfill or transfer station, contact the facility in advance to see if they accept ACM and if they have any special handling or packaging requirements.

Additional information

You may obtain additional information about properly managing excavated solid wastes from the sources listed below.

Regional Offices

Kansas City Regional Office (816) 622-7000

Northeast Regional Office (Macon) (660) 385-8000

St. Louis Regional Office (314) 416-2960

Southeast Regional Office (Poplar Bluff) (573) 840-9750

Southwest Regional Office (Springfield) (417) 891-4300

Environmental publications are also available at www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs.

Additional considerations and sources

Solid waste requirements are found in the Solid Waste Management Law in Sections 260.200 through 260.345 RSMo, and the regulations in Title 10, Division 80 in the Missouri Code of State Regulations. Copies of the *Revised Statutes of Missouri* are available through the Reviser of Statutes at (573) 526-1288, or are available online at www.moga.mo.gov.

Copies of the *Missouri Code of State Regulations* are available through the Missouri Secretary of State at (573) 751-4015, or are available online at www.sos.missouri.gov/adrules/csr/csr.asp.

For more information

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Solid Waste Management Program
P. O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-5401 office
(573) 526-3902 fax
www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Air Pollution Control Program
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-4817 office
(573) 751-2706 fax
www.dnr.mo.gov/env/apcp